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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Japan

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-eighth session from 6 to 17 November 2017. The review of Japan was held at the 13th meeting, on 14 November 2017. The delegation of Japan was headed by Yoshifumi Okamura, Representative of the Government of Japan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Human Rights. At its 17th meeting, held on 16 November 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Japan.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Japan: Belgium, Qatar and Togo.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Japan:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/JPN/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/JPN/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/JPN/3 and Corr.1).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Japan through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. Japan had placed importance on fundamental values such as democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law for more than 70 years, since the end of the Second World War.

6. Japan put emphasis on the universal periodic review and was honoured to report on the progress in protecting and promoting human rights over the past five years.

7. Japan had concluded the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

8. As a member of the Human Rights Council from Asia, Japan had been encouraging human rights protection through the submission of resolutions in the Council and through bilateral dialogues. Japan also continued to actively promote development cooperation.

9. In order to realize "a society in which all women shine", Japan had formulated the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the Intensive Policy to Accelerate the Empowerment of Women, had enforced the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace and had held the fourth World Assembly for Women.

10. Japan hoped that the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which would be hosted in Tokyo in 2020, would be an opportunity to foster an inclusive society and was aiming for the realization of a "society with the dynamic engagement of all citizens". In particular, Japan had enforced the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

11. Japan had implemented various measures to eradicate sexual exploitation of children and tackle sexual offences and human trafficking, such as formulating the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation, revising the Penal Code, revising the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and amending the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Control of Crime Proceeds.

12. On the protection of the human rights of all people, including foreign nationals, Japan had enforced the Hate Speech Elimination Act.

13. Under the amended Criminal Procedure Code, all detained suspects were eligible for court-appointed defence counsel, and audiovisual recording of interrogations was mandatory in cases specified by the Code.

14. Regarding the substitute detention system, besides the amendment noted above, the time, duration and manner of interrogations by the police were controlled by a national regulation. Furthermore, it was the judges who decided the reason or need for detention.

15. Japan stated that, regarding the comfort women issue, the Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Republic of Korea had confirmed that the issue was "resolved finally and irreversibly". Under the cooperation between the two countries, projects had been carried out for recovering the honour and dignity and healing the psychological wounds of former comfort women, based upon that agreement. Japan would lead the world in making the twenty-first century an era in which women's human rights were not infringed upon.

16. Japan looked forward to having future-oriented and constructive exchanges of views.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

17. During the interactive dialogue, 106 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

18. The Netherlands welcomed the reinforced prosecution of sexual offences and domestic abuse. It regretted the lack of a moratorium on executions.

19. New Zealand welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

20. Norway expressed concerns at the lack of legislation against workplace gender discrimination, and at executions.

21. Panama welcomed the submission of periodic reports to the treaty bodies.

22. Peru appreciated progress regarding the rights of persons with disabilities and gender equality, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

23. The Philippines welcomed measures to address the gender pay gap, disparities in inheritance rights between children born in or out of wedlock, and violence against women, as well as the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

24. Portugal made recommendations.

25. Qatar welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and human rights training for civil servants.

26. The Republic of Korea expressed concern about the so-called "comfort women" issue, emphasizing that the correct education of history was imperative to prevent recurrence of the past wrongdoings. It noted that many victims and civil society groups had found key elements of the Agreement on Comfort Women unacceptable and unsatisfactory. It also noted the adoption of the Hate Speech Elimination Act.

27. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the criminalization of sexual exploitation of children, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its implementation act, and the commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

28. The Russian Federation expressed concerns at persisting issues relating to national and ethnic minorities and reports of infringements of freedom of the media by State authorities.

29. Rwanda welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and encouraged measures to address underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions.

30. Saudi Arabia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

31. Senegal appreciated the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and amendments to the Penal Code providing for harsher punishments for sexual crimes.

32. Serbia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its implementation act, and measures to combat sexual exploitation of children.

33. Sierra Leone welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its enactment into law, the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and measures to combat sexual exploitation of children.

34. Singapore commended the implementation of laws and programmes to fulfil the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the entry into force in Japan of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

35. Slovenia welcomed legislative and policy progress towards gender equality, while encouraging the revision of educational textbooks.

36. Spain welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality.

37. Sri Lanka appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and legislative and policy measures to improve gender equality and to combat sexual exploitation of children.

38. The State of Palestine welcomed efforts to improve education and to empower women.

39. The Sudan welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace. It was concerned at the gender wage gap.

40. Sweden made recommendations.

41. Switzerland regretted the absence of a moratorium on executions and expressed concerns at the *daiyo kangoku* detention system. It welcomed progress in eliminating discrimination based on sexual orientation.

42. Thailand welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and efforts on human rights education.

43. Timor-Leste commended the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace, the criminalization of possession of child pornography, the promotion of universal access to health care, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

44. Togo appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, its enactment into law, and programmes, and the ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

45. Tunisia welcomed programmes aimed at training officials on human rights, addressing violence against women, protecting children's rights, and combating harassment.

46. Turkey appreciated the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the human rights education programmes for public servants.

47. Uganda welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

48. Ukraine encouraged further efforts towards the domestication of international human rights law.

49. The United Kingdom encouraged Japan to adopt a moratorium on executions. It welcomed the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

50. The United States welcomed efforts to reduce discrimination against certain groups, while regretting that legislative gaps remained in that regard. It was concerned about the regulatory framework that inhibited broadcast media.

51. Uruguay welcomed steps to include the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into national legislation, and to combat violence against women.

52. Uzbekistan expressed concerns at reports of hate speech and incitement to violence in the media.

53. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed efforts towards eliminating discrimination and promoting universal access to basic health services, and the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It was concerned about the increased number of persons condemned to death and executed.

54. Viet Nam welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality.

55. Yemen welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

56 Zambia noted that most of the supported recommendations of the previous universal periodic review had not been implemented.

57. Afghanistan welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and efforts to prevent all forms of discrimination in the workplace, education and health care.

58. Algeria appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and measures to penalize sexual crimes, reinforce child protection and combat trafficking in persons. It encouraged the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

59. Angola welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and human rights education programmes for civil servants.

60. Argentina welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its enactment into law.

61. Australia commended the ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, while

expressing concern about the continued implementation of the death penalty and inhumane conditions for those awaiting execution.

62. Austria welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

63. Azerbaijan appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons. It encouraged Japan to create an independent national human rights institution.

64. Bahrain welcomed the Act on Punishment of the Preparation of Acts of Terrorism and Other Organized Crimes.

65. Bangladesh appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Act on the Promotion of Efforts to Eliminate Unfair Discriminatory Speech and Behaviour against Persons Originating from Outside Japan. It expressed concerns about conditions in the workplace.

66. Belarus welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality. It expressed concerns at reports of persisting problems regarding sexual exploitation of children, lack of legal protection for journalists, and the recently adopted Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets.

67. Belgium welcomed progress on children's rights and highlighted the need for further progress in the areas of gender equality and violence against women. It encouraged Japan to launch a thorough public debate on the death penalty.

68. Benin commended cooperation with the special procedures and appreciated the support by Japan for the economic and social development of the least developed countries.

69. Bhutan welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

70. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

71. Botswana welcomed the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women. It noted the absence of a specific law defining racial discrimination.

72. Brazil expressed concern about the possible risks to journalists regarding the Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets. It welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and amendments to the Penal Code to address sexual crimes.

73. Brunei Darussalam appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the subsequent enactment into law.

74. Japan emphasized that each recommendation from the United Nations human rights mechanisms would be duly considered and appropriately dealt with, taking into account various aspects including the Sustainable Development Goals.

75. "Unity in diversity" — accepting and respecting the differences of others — was one of the core concepts for the Olympic and Paralympic Games being held in Tokyo in 2020.

76. Japan had been monitoring the implementation of the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and would make necessary revisions.

77. On business and human rights, Japan would develop and publish its national action plan in the coming years.

78. Japan had continuously held meetings of the Council for Ainu Policy Promotion, with Ainu representation, to promote comprehensive policy.

79. Regarding child pornography, Japan had strengthened the crackdown and promoted various measures to prevent damage and support victims. Those steps would be followed up on every year.

80. Japan had established ad hoc human rights counselling centres at welfare facilities for the elderly. Japan had taken measures to protect elderly persons suffering elder abuse and to support elderly persons' caregivers etc., based on the law.

81. Japan had deleted the Civil Code provision concerning children born out of wedlock, in December 2013. Japan was conducting human rights education in schools and communities, taking into consideration students' developmental stages as well as local circumstances.

82. Japan was considering submitting a bill to the Diet as soon as possible to make the marriage age 18 for men and women.

83. Japan reported that allowing same-sex marriage or introducing a partnership system at the national level should be given careful consideration.

84. Japan reported that it examined appropriately whether applicants for refugee status, including applicants from Myanmar, were Convention refugees, while considering the circumstances of their home countries as well as their individual circumstances.

85. Article 14 of the Constitution guaranteed the principle of equality before the law.

86. Based on the 2014 action plan, Japan was continuing to take a holistic approach to eradicating human trafficking, including by enhancing protection and support for victims.

87. Japan had granted special permission to stay, for all victims of trafficking in persons illegally staying in Japan.

88. Regarding the conclusion of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, careful consideration was needed.

89. Japan noted that it had a provisional stay system for applicants for refugee status who did not have resident status. It reported that deportation was suspended while the application was pending and that provisional release was applied flexibly in cases where the person had been detained.

90. Japan had enacted the new act on the technical intern training system, which had relevant provisions and penalties to protect the human rights of trainees, in November 2017.

91. Freedom of expression, including that of the press, was a fundamental human right fully guaranteed by the Constitution and domestic laws, and government officials had never put pressure on journalists. The Broadcast Act was established within a framework of autonomy and independence of broadcasters, and ensured that broadcasters enjoyed some of the freest media circumstances.

92. Regarding violence against women, Japan had implemented measures based on law. For foreign victims in particular, language barriers had been addressed.

93. Japan had achieved a reduction in the number of long-term patients in medical hospitals during the present decade. Japan promoted deinstitutionalization for the mentally disabled, by expanding resources for community-based care.

94. Bulgaria welcomed the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

95. Cabo Verde welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It encouraged Japan to reduce the gender wage gap and to take steps to increase women's participation in decision-making processes.

96. Canada commended the ratification and implementation of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, and the promotion of equality by voting in favour of the Human Rights Council resolutions on sexual orientation and gender identity.

97. Chad welcomed the ratification of several human rights conventions.

98. Chile asked about measures taken to ensure the rights of children born out of wedlock in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

99. China noted with concern that gender inequality remained grave, and deplored the lack of compensation for "comfort women".

100. Colombia welcomed the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace and the ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

101. Costa Rica appreciated the educational training programmes on human rights for civil servants, and measures to fight trafficking in persons.

102. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

103. Croatia welcomed the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation, and the ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It expressed concern about the practice of corporal punishment and the death penalty.

104. Cuba noted the gender wage gap and the low level of women's representation in leadership positions.

105. Cyprus welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality. It encouraged Japan to continue its combat against trafficking in persons.

106. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed concern about the persistent human rights violations, including discrimination, hate speech, massive surveillance and restrictions on freedom of expression.

107. Denmark welcomed the call by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations for abolition of the death penalty by 2020.

108. Egypt welcomed continued efforts to advance human rights.

109. Ethiopia appreciated Japan's international cooperation, which contributed to the promotion and protection of human rights.

110. Finland welcomed the efforts of Japan to promote gender equality, as well as the recent accession to instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, while noting that the remaining challenges included the abolition of the death penalty.

111. France noted the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

112. Georgia commended the ratification of several important international instruments.

113. Germany welcomed the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, and the progress in advancing children and women's rights.

114. Ghana welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities.

115. Guatemala made recommendations.

116. Haiti welcomed the two laws: one granting divorced women the right to remarry after six months and the other on non-discrimination against persons with disabilities.

117. Honduras welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

118. Iceland welcomed efforts to strengthen gender equality, and to protect women's rights, while stressing the need for improvement.

119. India welcomed the enforcement of the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace, the Technical Intern Training Programme, and the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

120. Indonesia appreciated the implementation of various recommendations from the previous universal periodic review.

121. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the criminalization of human trafficking, and the fight against sexual exploitation of children, child pornography and prostitution.

122. Iraq welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.

123. Ireland noted the lack of a national legal framework for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and expressed concern at the widening gender pay gap and the underrepresentation of women in managerial and political positions.

124. Israel mentioned the establishment of a Sustainable Development Goals promotion headquarters in Japan to advance the Sustainable Development Goals domestically and internationally.

125. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Japan's first anti-hate speech law.

126. Kazakhstan noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation.

127. Kenya welcomed the contribution by Japan to advancing the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights in many parts of the developing world.

128. Kyrgyzstan welcomed efforts to promote and protect human rights by strengthening the national legislative and institutional frameworks.

129. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the implementation of the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.

130. Libya welcomed efforts to implement the supported recommendations from the last universal periodic review.

131. Liechtenstein noted that Japan had not yet established an independent national human rights institution.

132. Madagascar welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality.

133. Malaysia welcomed strengthened efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, and women's rights.

134. Maldives welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.

135. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

136. Mongolia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its enactment into law. It encouraged Japan to strengthen efforts to prevent child abuse and violence against women, including foreign victims.

137. Montenegro praised the promotion of women's rights and initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, while expressing concern about the high suspension rate of sentences for offences involving sexual exploitation of children.

138. Morocco welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and human rights training for civil servants.

139. Myanmar welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2014, and its enactment into law.

140. Nepal welcomed the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while expressing concern about the continued use of the death penalty.

141. Paraguay welcomed the accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and the Law on the Elimination of Discrimination against People with Disabilities.

142. Pakistan welcomed the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

143. Armenia welcomed human rights education programmes for civil servants and measures to promote women's and children's rights, and the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

144. Japan reported that it considered the individual communication procedure to be noteworthy and that it would continue serious consideration on the matter.

145. Japan noted that human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity should not be tolerated. Japan continued to make efforts to prevent discrimination.

146. Regarding the situation in Fukushima, health management surveys for the people of Fukushima were conducted every year. The ratio of effective job offers in Fukushima was above 1:1. However, the number of employees in the evacuation areas had not recovered to previous levels. Mental health care was being provided to children affected by the disaster.

147. Japan believed that each sovereign country should be allowed to make decisions on the issue of the death penalty independently. Domestic public opinion, the existence of extremely vicious crimes and other factors made it inappropriate to abolish the death penalty. A moratorium was also inappropriate, since the final judgement must be executed impartially and thoroughly under the rule of law.

148. Japan reported its progress in improving prison conditions, including medical care and heating and cooling, and indicated that inmates sentenced to death were treated in appropriate conditions.

149. Japan was examining what the most appropriate human rights remedy system would be, on the basis of the discussions heretofore. At 311 legal affairs bureaux, officials as well as 14,000 human rights volunteers were engaged in human rights counselling, activities on remediation, and awareness-raising activities.

150. Japan recognized that there was the development of a widespread notion that discriminatory speech was not tolerated in society.

151. Japan was working to reduce the gender pay gap by promoting women's empowerment and improving workplace environments so that women could continue working while parenting.

152. Japan had formulated the Intensive Policy to Accelerate the Empowerment of Women and had enhanced women's empowerment through "visualizing" current situations of female employment in the workplace.

153. Japan had been making wide-ranging efforts to protect the human rights of suspects, through the aforementioned measures on the substitute detention system.

154. The Prime Minister's statement on 14 August 2015 was Japan's recognition of history on the past war.

155. Japan had appropriately made the decision to not designate Democratic People's Republic of Korea schools for the High School Enrolment Support Fund system, in accordance with the intent of the relevant laws.

156. Nobody had been punished for violating the Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets and there were no circumstances in which the press was daunted.

157. Japan recognized that the comfort women issue was one that had severely injured the honour and dignity of many women, and had extended its heartfelt apologies and remorse to the former comfort women.

158. Japan stated that the issues of reparations, properties and claims arising from the war had been settled through treaties, agreements and instruments between Japan and the countries concerned.

159. Japan stated that "forceful taking away" of comfort women by the military and government authorities and the figure of "200,000 persons" as the total number of comfort women could not be confirmed in any of the documents in the full-scale fact-finding study in the early 1990s. Japan also stated that referring to comfort women as "sex slaves" was inappropriate, as it contradicted the facts.

160. In conclusion, Japan thanked the delegations for their constructive and valuable comments and reiterated its continued commitment to cooperate with the universal periodic review and make efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

161. **The following recommendations will be examined by Japan, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council:**

161.1 **Consider lifting existing reservations to the international human rights treaties (Ukraine);**

161.2 **Consider recognizing the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive and consider individual complaints (Kazakhstan);**

161.3 **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Slovenia);**

161.4 **Consider the abolition of the death penalty in its legislation, and proceed to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Argentina);**

161.5 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro) (Spain) (Sweden) (Togo);**

161.6 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and in the meantime, establish a moratorium on execution (Croatia); establish an immediate formal moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Germany);**

161.7 **Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Mongolia);**

161.8 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and in the meantime, declare an**

official moratorium on executions with a view to abolish the death penalty, commuting the death sentences to prison terms (Uruguay);

161.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Guatemala);**

161.10 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

161.11 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

161.12 **Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);**

161.13 **Consider the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

161.14 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Panama) (Togo) (Turkey);**

161.15 **Continue to take measures to fight all discrimination and stereotyping against women, in law and in practice, and, in this regard, ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Brazil);**

161.16 **Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Panama);**

161.17 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cabo Verde) (Ukraine) (Uruguay);**

161.18 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as soon as possible (Ghana);**

161.19 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Spain) (Turkey) (Yemen);**

161.20 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay);**

161.21 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt) (Kyrgyzstan) (Senegal) (Sierra Leone) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**

161.22 **Ratify promptly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Guatemala);**

161.23 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);**

161.24 **Continue the deliberation among relevant institutions and stakeholders with a view to ratify the International Convention on the**

Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and to expand discussions with representatives from the state parties to the Convention in the region (Indonesia);

161.25 **Continue taking serious consideration on the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**

161.26 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

161.27 **Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression (Liechtenstein);**

161.28 **Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Costa Rica);**

161.29 **Consider ratifying the ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) (Cabo Verde);**

161.30 **Ratify the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Guatemala);**

161.31 **Sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Guatemala);**

161.32 **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

161.33 **Continue cooperating with the Human Rights Council to implement the initiatives undertaken for the well-being and the full enjoyment of human rights of its population (Chad);**

161.34 **Continue to focus on the Sustainable Development Goals in its international engagements, especially those related to education, health, sanitation and poverty alleviation (Pakistan);**

161.35 **Continue to provide support for African development, through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process (Sierra Leone);**

161.36 **Continue its leadership role in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as exemplified, among others, by the pledge to contribute USD 1.1 billion for SDG 3 (Bhutan);**

161.37 **Continue efforts towards the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in full accordance with the Paris Principles (Georgia); continue efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia) (Qatar) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

161.38 **Accelerate its efforts to establish a National Human Rights Commission, ensuring its independence and full compliance with the Paris Principles (Australia); accelerate efforts towards the establishment of a Paris Principles-compliant national human rights institution (Philippines);**

161.39 **Take the necessary steps to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, with competence to consider and act on complaints of human rights violations by public authorities, and with adequate financial and human resources (Republic of Moldova);**

161.40 **Promote the drafting of a new law in order to establish a National Institution of Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);**

161.41 **Enhance efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);**

161.42 **Take necessary steps to establish a credible national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Uganda);**

161.43 **Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine); consider establishing an independent national human rights institution (Azerbaijan); consider establishing a national human rights institution based on accepted principles (Ethiopia); consider taking steps to establish an independent National Human Rights Institution (India); consider the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Afghanistan) (Panama);**

161.44 **Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile) (Colombia) (Croatia) (Finland) (Sierra Leone); establish rapidly an impartial national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (France); establish an independent National Human Rights Institution, in compliance with the Principles relating to the status of National Institutions of promotion and protection of human rights (Guatemala); establish an independent, impartial and credible national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Kenya); establish an independent national human rights institution with a broad mandate and matching resources in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**

161.45 **Establish, within a clear time frame, an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles and ensure that its mandate covers women's rights and gender equality (Liechtenstein);**

161.46 **Strengthen the work of the Bureau as well as to continue the effort to establish a National Human Rights Commission in Japan (Indonesia);**

161.47 **Complete the process of establishing the National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Kazakhstan);**

161.48 **Establish an independent national human rights institution and another institution to advocate the rights of the child (Iraq);**

161.49 **Establish a National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the Paris Principles and to eliminate any forms of discrimination against foreigners (Sudan);**

161.50 **Continue to strengthen national institutions responsible for human rights (Morocco);**

161.51 **Continue efforts to raise awareness and educate about human rights at all levels (Morocco);**

161.52 **Proceed in the development of effective tools to measure the impact of existing schemes for human rights education, both in the short and long term (Israel);**

161.53 **Expand human rights education for law enforcement officers (Viet Nam);**

161.54 **Redouble efforts to sensitize and to train law enforcement officials on human rights criteria related to their fields of work (Qatar);**

161.55 **Provide effective training to public services personnel in the application of non-discrimination laws and standards in order to combat prejudice and discriminatory behaviour (Bangladesh);**

161.56 **Adopt a number of legislative and practical measures designed to combat manifestation of racial discrimination (Russian Federation);**

161.57 **Adopt a legislative measure prohibiting and repressing all forms of discrimination against non-citizens, and a law eliminating the stereotypes that constitute the cause of violence against women (Madagascar);**

161.58 **Eliminate legislative provisions that are discriminatory against women, children born out of wedlock, ethnic or national minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex persons, with a view to expressly prohibiting hate speech and penalizing any non-consensual sexual conduct (Mexico);**

161.59 **Adopt a broadly applicable anti-discrimination law, including a comprehensive definition of discrimination, with a view to ensuring the prohibition of all forms of direct and indirect discrimination, including on the basis of age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity or nationality (Netherlands);**

161.60 **Revise its laws to establish a broadly applicable anti-discrimination law which also effectively criminalizes hate speech (Sierra Leone);**

161.61 **Enact a law prohibiting discrimination, including on the basis of age, gender, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity, and that other necessary measures be undertaken to ensure gender equality (Norway);**

161.62 **Continue the process of improving the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation (Côte d'Ivoire);**

161.63 **Adopt and implement a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that would prohibit and sanction any direct or indirect form of discrimination based on age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnic origin or nationality (Germany);**

161.64 **Promulgate an anti-discrimination law, based on article 14, paragraph 1 of the Japanese Constitution, which prohibits all forms of discrimination, especially against foreigners (Haiti);**

161.65 **Adopt comprehensive legislation to combat discrimination in line with its international obligations and standards, which includes discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Honduras);**

161.66 **Adopt an anti-discrimination law that can be widely applied (Iraq);**

161.67 **Adopt an anti-discrimination law with adequate and corresponding penal provisions to protect victims (Kenya);**

161.68 **Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat every kind of discrimination, including by adopting a comprehensive law and by means of awareness campaigns (Italy);**

161.69 **Continue and deepen the implementation of measures to avoid and prevent discrimination against minorities and indigenous populations, including through consultations with the different indigenous peoples (Paraguay);**

161.70 **Take steps to address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including revising the Gender Identity Disorder Law (New Zealand);**

161.71 **Continue the positive developments related to the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and recognize same-sex unions at the national level (Switzerland);**

161.72 **Implement comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to protect and promote the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (United States of America);**

161.73 **Further the efforts of some local governments and private firms to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity,**

including by extending at the national level formal recognition of same-sex partnerships (Canada);

161.74 **Continue developing the implementation of actions against any kind of discrimination for gender, ethnicity, skin colour, sexual orientation and gender identity, among others (Colombia);**

161.75 **Move quickly to introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to provide equal protection against discrimination for all persons and on all grounds, including sexual orientation or gender identity (Ireland);**

161.76 **Continue with the ongoing efforts to fight discrimination against non-citizens on the basis of race or nationality, including by ensuring that appropriate legislation sanctioning such acts is applied effectively and all alleged cases are investigated (Ghana);**

161.77 **Strengthen efforts designed to prohibit racist and xenophobic discourses (Saudi Arabia);**

161.78 **Continue to take effective measures to combat all forms of discrimination, including racial superiority and hatred, and to eliminate gender stereotypes (Uzbekistan);**

161.79 **Continue implementing measures to eradicate all forms of discrimination, including against people with other origins (Cuba);**

161.80 **Take appropriate measures and implement legislation effectively to eliminate racial discrimination (Guatemala);**

161.81 **Take appropriate measures to eliminate exclusion of non-citizens from accessing some public places and facilities on the basis of race or nationality, by effectively applying legislation and investigating and sanctioning such acts (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

161.82 **Conduct more active policy against racial discrimination, including addressing the issue of incorporating an adequate definition of racial discrimination in national legislation (Kyrgyzstan);**

161.83 **Adopt a comprehensive law on racial discrimination, with an adequate definition of racial discrimination, in accordance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Botswana);**

161.84 **Take further steps to effectively address hate speech and protect the rights of minorities, including introducing legislation to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia);**

161.85 **Continue to address the problem of discrimination and hate speech, particularly through adequate allocation of resources on this issue through education and awareness programmes in schools (Malaysia);**

161.86 **Repeal all state policy and regulations which condone discrimination against and harassment of Koreans in Japan (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

161.87 **Thoroughly accept legal state responsibility for and take sincere measures to address its past crimes against humanity, including sexual slavery (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

161.88 **Face up to and reflect on history, sincerely apologize on the issue of "comfort women", make compensations to the victims, and ensure the right of the public to information in this regard (China);**

161.89 **Make efforts to ensure that the future generations learn the truth of history, including the issue of so-called "comfort women" (Republic of Korea);**

161.90 **Take the necessary measures to ensure that Japanese companies take into consideration the respect of human rights in their activities abroad (Algeria);**

161.91 **Consider a possibility of establishing a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, pursuant to the Guiding Principles adopted by the Human Rights Council (Chile);**

161.92 **Formulate a national work plan for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to ensure that multinational companies headquartered in Japan do not violate human rights (Egypt);**

161.93 **Establish a national regulatory framework, in accordance with United Nations guidelines, for the assessment of human rights and the environmental impact of the business activities of multinational corporations headquartered in Japan (Haiti);**

161.94 **Adopt a national action plan pursuant to the United Nations guidance on multinational corporations to guard against human rights violations (Kenya);**

161.95 **Consider applying a moratorium on executions, with a view to ultimately abolishing the death penalty (Cyprus); consider introducing a moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**

161.96 **Consider introducing a moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty, and commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment (Republic of Moldova);**

161.97 **Take immediate measures to introduce a formal moratorium on executions and take concrete steps towards the total abolition of the death penalty (Norway); take measures to introduce a de jure moratorium on executions and take concrete steps towards the abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);**

161.98 **Adopt the necessary measures to abolish the death penalty and establish a moratorium on executions (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

161.99 **Establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as a first step towards the complete abolition of this practice, and initiate a broad public debate on the death penalty with a view to its final abolition (New Zealand); set up an official moratorium for the definitive abolition of the death penalty and facilitate the holding of debate on this issue (France); conduct a national debate on the establishment of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Mexico);**

161.100 **Establish an official moratorium on executions and abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Iceland); introduce a formal moratorium on executions (Belgium); immediately introduce a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Sweden); establish a moratorium on executions, followed by eventual abolition of the death penalty (Finland); apply a new moratorium on the death penalty with the aim of proceeding towards the final abolition of capital punishment (Spain); establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to abolishing capital punishment before the next universal periodic review session (Brazil); introduce a formal and immediate moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty and to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment, in line with international human rights standards (Netherlands); put in force an immediate moratorium on the death penalty (Denmark); establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as a first step towards complete abolition of this practice and as a way of reassuring the**

Japanese public that adequate law enforcement does not require the state to carry out executions (Australia);

161.101 **Introduce a moratorium and instigate a public debate on the abolition of the death penalty, while also addressing how best to support victims and their families (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

161.102 **Consider abolition of the death penalty (Timor-Leste);**

161.103 **Consider abolition of the death penalty and implementation of an immediate moratorium on executions (Liechtenstein);**

161.104 **Make progress on the abolition of the death penalty (Colombia);**

161.105 **Abolish the death penalty (Paraguay) (Portugal);**

161.106 **Abolish the death penalty and modify the penitentiary regulations to strictly limit solitary confinement (Panama);**

161.107 **Introduce a system of mandatory appeal in cases where the death penalty has been handed down (Switzerland);**

161.108 **Ensure the protection of the rights of those sentenced to death, by guaranteeing among other things the suspensive effect of any appeal request or claim to review the trial (France);**

161.109 **Designate an official body for a comprehensive review and recommendations in view to promote an informed debate on the reform of the death penalty (Austria);**

161.110 **Review its death penalty policy and strongly consider a moratorium on the use of capital punishment, and to engage in public debate about the future use of the death penalty (Canada);**

161.111 **Improve prison conditions with the aim of aligning them to international norms and standards on the treatment of prisoners (Spain);**

161.112 **Improve the treatment of all prisoners as regards medical and dental care, heating in winter, cooling in summer as well as the nutritional quality of the food served (Sweden);**

161.113 **Improve prison conditions to bring them in line with internationally accepted standards and guidelines (Zambia);**

161.114 **Follow the appropriate United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in order to improve detention conditions by providing: better and timelier medical and dental treatment; appropriate provisions to withstand the cold winter temperatures in prisons; and larger servings of food to inmates (Canada);**

161.115 **Bring the prison and detention conditions in line with international human rights norms and standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules (Denmark);**

161.116 **Continue its efforts in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children domestically in an appropriate manner (Pakistan);**

161.117 **Continue to combat human trafficking (Senegal);**

161.118 **Continue to enhance its legislative and protection frameworks to combat and prevent all forms of trafficking in persons (Singapore);**

161.119 **Strengthen its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including by formulating a comprehensive anti-trafficking legal framework, especially in order to protect women and children from exploitation (Thailand);**

161.120 **Further intensify investigation, prosecution and adequate sanctions in all cases of human trafficking (Turkey);**

161.121 **Strengthen measures to combat trafficking in persons, in particular those related to the sexual exploitation of women and children (Algeria);**

161.122 **Continue exerting further efforts to improve access of victims of trafficking and sexual violence to complaints mechanisms and protection services (Azerbaijan);**

161.123 **Redouble its efforts against human trafficking and adopt a specific action plan for the protection and compensation of victims (Honduras);**

161.124 **Enact an anti-human trafficking law to protect human rights of migrants from violations by recruitment agencies, brokers and employers (Kenya);**

161.125 **Take adequate measures to effectively address violence against foreign, minority and indigenous women by prosecuting and sanctioning all forms of violence, and ensuring that victims have access to immediate means of redress and protection (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

161.126 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings by law (Montenegro);**

161.127 **Expressly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings (Zambia);**

161.128 **Take into full consideration the recommendations made by the United Nations human rights mechanisms on hate speech (Republic of Korea);**

161.129 **Comprehensive measures including legislative means to ensure independence of media (Russian Federation);**

161.130 **Review the legal framework governing broadcast media and, in particular, that the Government review and repeal Article 4 of the Broadcast Act (United States of America);**

161.131 **Create an independent administrative body to regulate broadcast media (United States of America);**

161.132 **Continue to guarantee the independence of the media, including by reviewing the current legal framework governing the broadcast media, and to strengthen media independence by removing the legal basis for undue government interference (Austria);**

161.133 **Adopt necessary measures to create the necessary conditions for the activities of a free independent mass media (Belarus);**

161.134 **Refraining from the practice of surveillance and intrusion into the private lives of representatives of religious minorities (Russian Federation);**

161.135 **Continue to improve the national system of administration of justice, including guarantees for the rights of persons being held in detention (Russian Federation);**

161.136 **Authorize the defendant to immediately have access to a lawyer and limit the detention period without charges to a maximum of 48 hours, as a step towards abolishing this system (Switzerland);**

161.137 **Continue ongoing reforms in the field of justice and criminal procedure with a view to an in-depth review of the system of substitute detention (*daiyō kangoku*) (France);**

161.138 **Consider improving the basic pension scheme for the elderly, in consultation with their representatives within the associations, so as to guarantee them sufficient resources to cover their living expenses (Haiti);**

161.139 **Intensify its efforts towards poverty reduction and sustainable development (Timor-Leste);**

161.140 **Strengthen regulations that set limits on extending working hours with a view to capping work-related deaths and suicides (Botswana);**

161.141 **Adopt specific measures to rectify labour standards violations as a follow-up to inspections conducted on the Technical Intern Training Programme (Portugal);**

161.142 **Continue efforts to protect workers' rights to safe and healthy working conditions (Iraq);**

161.143 **Consider amplifying the application of the Relief Act for the Victims of the Atomic Bomb to the second generation of the survivors of atomic bombs, particularly in health issues (Costa Rica);**

161.144 **Develop community-based and people-centred mental health services and supports that do not lead to institutionalization, over medicalization and to practices that fail to respect the rights, will and preferences of all persons (Portugal);**

161.145 **Ensure that the "Tuition Waiver and Tuition Support Fund Programme for High School Education" is extended to all schools in the country, including those that are under the responsibility of local governments (Portugal);**

161.146 **Continue in its efforts to ensure full access to education enrolment to all and to remove any obstacles that minority communities may face, particularly in reference to equal access to education for women and girls (State of Palestine);**

161.147 **Promote equal access for women and girls to all levels of education (Timor-Leste);**

161.148 **Continue promoting equal access for women and girls to all levels of education (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

161.149 **Strengthen their efforts aimed at empowering women, in particular through continuing to improve access for women and girls to quality education (Cyprus);**

161.150 **Ensure that minority children enjoy the right to education without discrimination, in line with the recommendations by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Austria);**

161.151 **Take measures to extend the "Tuition Waiver and Tuition Support Fund Program for High School Education" to children attending Korean schools and ensure equal treatment of Korean schools in accordance with the recommendations of relevant United Nations treaty bodies (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

161.152 **Further strengthen the promotion of gender equality and protect women from all forms of discrimination and violence (Myanmar);**

161.153 **Continue to protect vulnerable groups, in particular women, children as well as foreigners (Senegal);**

161.154 **Ensure the effective implementation of the 4th Basic Plan for Gender Equality with particular focus on the "Reformation of "men-oriented working styles" for women's empowerment" (Bahrain);**

161.155 **Continue its efforts in the advancement of the protection of the rights of women, gender equality and the promotion of gender-equal society by implementing the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality (Bulgaria);**

161.156 **Continue the implementation of the Basic Plan for gender equality (Cuba);**

161.157 **Continue its efforts for the promotion and protection of gender equality (Iceland);**

161.158 **Step up its efforts to improve gender empowerment and women's rights nationally and continue to contribute at regional and global levels (Indonesia);**

161.159 **Strengthen the legislative framework to promote gender equality, in particular in the field of employment (Belgium);**

161.160 **Focus on the successful implementation of the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace as well as to share its best practices of their experiences in the achievement of women employees in the country (Brunei Darussalam);**

161.161 **Step up its efforts to encourage enterprises to take positive measures to narrow the gender pay gap, including regarding women's access to managerial positions (Ireland);**

161.162 **Continue implementing the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace, including through the monitoring of the stated goals in the action plans published by relevant government bodies and private companies (Israel);**

161.163 **Intensify efforts directed to eliminating discrimination against women, including promotion of equal access for women and girls to all levels of education (Kyrgyzstan);**

161.164 **Take effective measures to address gender inequality, combat domestic violence and sexual exploitation, and effectively protect women's and children's rights (China);**

161.165 **Adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Slovenia);**

161.166 **Make efforts to guarantee gender wage equality, including those aimed at women's access to management positions (Paraguay);**

161.167 **Increase the support for the presence of women in the workplace with active policies for the promotion of employment and reconciliation measures that allow for this (Spain);**

161.168 **Intensify its efforts to eliminate the gender wage gap (Sudan);**

161.169 **Ensure decent work without discrimination by enhancing effective implementation of the Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation in the Workplace, and by ensuring reasonable wages and safe working conditions for foreign workers, particularly those under the Technical Internship and Training Program (Thailand);**

161.170 **Continue efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and establish full gender equality, especially in the labour market and at the salary level (Tunisia);**

161.171 **Intensify efforts to reduce wage inequality on the basis of gender (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

161.172 **Enact legislation to ensure equal pay for equal work to both men and women in order to maintain gender parity and prevent discrimination based on gender (India);**

161.173 **Continue efforts to implement recommendations 151 and 152 from the previous universal periodic review on the gender pay gap and women's participation in decision-making processes (Benin);**

161.174 **Continue its efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and to create conditions of assistance in order to facilitate the protection of victims of violence (Angola);**

161.175 **Continue the work for eradication of violence against women and children, including sexual violence (Kyrgyzstan);**

161.176 **Intensify the comprehensive approaches in eliminating sexual exploitation among women and girls (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

161.177 **Additional reform of the Penal Code to raise the age of sexual consent and prohibit spousal rape (New Zealand);**

161.178 **Reinforce measures to prevent and combat gender-based violence, particularly in the fight against human trafficking, and with special emphasis on the prevention of the sexual exploitation of children and girls (Paraguay);**

161.179 **Investigate all reports of domestic violence, including the same-sex couples (Timor-Leste);**

161.180 **Protect women from sexual violence by expanding the scope of the anti-domestic violence law to other situations than cohabitant couples and by explicitly criminalizing marital rape (Belgium);**

161.181 **Continue with the positive work already being implemented to combat domestic violence, in particular against foreign, minority and indigenous workers and through ensuring that victims have support, care and redress for the abuse (Maldives);**

161.182 **Take measures to reduce inequalities between men and women, in particular by raising the legal age of marriage to 18 years for all (France);**

161.183 **Raise the minimum age of marriage to eighteen for women (Iceland);**

161.184 **Continue to implement measures to advance gender equality in political, administrative and economic spheres (Sri Lanka);**

161.185 **Continue in its efforts to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality for women and men, with a greater focus on women, especially minority women, in decision-making policy positions in the public and private sectors (State of Palestine);**

161.186 **Step up efforts to combat violence against children, including prohibition of corporal punishment (Russian Federation);**

161.187 **Continue with undertaking actions to promote the well-being of children by comprehensive suppression of violence against children (Serbia);**

161.188 **Modify all discriminatory provisions on the social and legal status of children born out of wedlock (Argentina);**

161.189 **Continue with its plans to strengthen child protection and welfare activities, including the introduction of legislation for this purpose (Bhutan);**

161.190 **Establish enforceable domestic child access mechanisms that would allow both parents to maintain on a regular basis personal relations and direct contact with their children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Canada);**

161.191 **Strengthen efforts to implement the Hague Convention of 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Italy);**

161.192 **Continue implementation of the Government's "Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation", and supporting and rehabilitation of victims (Sri Lanka);**

161.193 **Further increase its efforts to combat sexual exploitation of children, child pornography and prostitution, and provide assistance to victims of sexual exploitation (Sweden);**

161.194 **Continue efforts to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation by implementing the Basic Plan adopted in April 2017 through measures to combat sexual exploitation of children (Tunisia);**

161.195 **Continue to focus on the priority to combat sexual exploitation of children (Belarus);**

161.196 **Continue efforts to investigate and prosecute crimes related to the sexual exploitation of children (Peru);**

161.197 **Ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in line with national efforts (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

161.198 **Implement fully its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including following the Committee's guidelines on Article 14 to protect the security and personal integrity of persons with disability who are deprived of their liberty (New Zealand);**

161.199 **Carry out necessary reforms to address stigma against persons with disabilities in order to strengthen implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Uganda);**

161.200 **Continue with its efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and eliminate discrimination (Brunei Darussalam);**

161.201 **Continue advancing the situation of persons with disabilities by providing access to education, health, jobs and public spaces as well as protecting from all forms of violence and discrimination (Myanmar);**

161.202 **Continue to expand existing programmes and introduce new ones where necessary to support and to promote the meaningful participation of all persons with disabilities in society (Singapore);**

161.203 **Continue to promote the efforts to make mentally and psychologically disabled persons benefit from the health-care services (Libya);**

161.204 **Continue with encouraging the private business sector to continue undertaking relevant measures to employ persons with disabilities, in accordance with the domestic law provisions (Serbia);**

161.205 **Strengthen measures so that ethnic minorities — Ainu, Ryukyu and Burakumins — can fully enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights (Peru);**

161.206 **Continue efforts for the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers (Nepal);**

161.207 **Strengthen the legal protection for migrant workers to eliminate cases of abuse and exploitation (Uganda);**

161.208 **Continue to strengthen oversight of its Technical Intern Training Programme to ensure migrant workers participating in the programme receive full protection and support commensurate with the Government of Japan's international obligations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

161.209 **Ensure that suspected abusive employers of migrant workers can be duly prosecuted (Bangladesh);**

161.210 **Continue its efforts to improve the situation of migrant workers and members of their families (Côte d'Ivoire);**

161.211 **Scale up the human rights protection awareness-raising of vulnerable groups, including migrant workers (Ethiopia);**

161.212 **Continue measures to promote working conditions of foreign workers, especially women foreign workers; and to improve their integration into Japanese society (Viet Nam);**

161.213 **Ensure that the refugee status determination process is conducted in a fair, effective and transparent manner in line with international law (Kenya);**

161.214 **Continue providing support for the voluntary evacuees from the high-radiation areas of Fukushima, with housing, financial and other life-assisting means and with periodic health monitoring of those affected, in particular those who were children at the time of the accident (Austria);**

161.215 **Apply the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to all those impacted by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in order to ensure full and equal participation for both women and men in decision-making processes regarding their resettlement (Portugal);**

161.216 **Respect the rights of persons living in the area of Fukushima, in particular of pregnant women and children, to the highest level of physical and mental health, notably by restoring the allowable dose of radiation to the 1 mSv/year limit, and by a continuing support to the evacuees and residents (Germany);**

161.217 **Guarantee access to health services for those affected by the Fukushima nuclear accident, as well as for the generations of survivors of the use of nuclear weapons (Mexico).**

162. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Japan was headed by Mr. Yoshifumi Okamura, Representative of the Government of Japan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Human Rights and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Junichi Ihara, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Mitsuko Shino, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Kansuke Nagaoka, Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Hideo Keage, Deputy Director, Comprehensive Ainu Policy Office, Cabinet Secretariat;
- Ms. Kaoru Ikemura, Deputy Director, General Affairs Division, Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office;
- Mr. Hibiki Tamura, Deputy Director, Gender Equality Promotion Division, Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office;
- Mr. Shinichiro Handa, Director, Detention Management Division, Commissioner General's Secretariat, National Police Agency;
- Mr. Kota Takashi, Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Commissioner General's Secretariat, National Police Agency;
- Mr. Syunsuke Sakamoto, Assistant Director, Community Safety Planning Division, Community Safety Bureau, National Police Agency;
- Mr. Keiichiro Tao, Assistant Director, Criminal Affairs Planning Division, Criminal Affairs Bureau, National Police Agency;
- Mr. Ryota Shimizu, Assistant Director, Security Planning Division, Security Bureau, National Police Agency;
- Mr. Koichi Fujinami, Director, Information and Communications Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication;
- Ms. Junko Irie, Attorney, Deputy Director, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Yuzuru Hamano, Chief, Office of International Affairs, Secretarial Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Yukihiro Saito, Coordinator, Prison Service Division, Correction Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Hirokazu Kayawake, Attorney, Human Rights Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Dai Saito, Chief, Human Rights Promotion Division, Human Rights Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Noriaki Hashimoto, Attorney, Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Ms. Kaori Miichi, Attorney, Criminal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Kazuhiro Kurihara, Attorney, Criminal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice;
- Ms. Shiori Nakayama, Official, Criminal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice;

- Mr. Shun Kudo, Planning Unit Chief, Student Affairs Division, Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- Mr. Yusuke Nakashima, Unit Chief, International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- Mr. Yutaka Goda, Deputy Director, Internal Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare;
- Mr. Yusuke Matsubara, Deputy Director, U.S. Facilities Construction and Planning Division, Bureau of Defense Buildup Planning, Ministry of Defense;
- Mr. Akira Oka, Deputy Director, Okinawa Coordination Division, Bureau of Local Cooperation, Ministry of Defense;
- Mr. Masatoshi Sugiura, Director, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Naoko Uraoka, Attorney, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Takeshi Ozaki, Official, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Hiromi Otsuki, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations;
- Ms. Minae Tsuchiya, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations;
- Ms. Tomoko Kubota, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations;
- Mr. Hiroshi Tagami, Attaché, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations.